

## Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW

---

2012 IPFW Student Research and Creative  
Endeavor Symposium

IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor  
Symposium

---

4-14-2012

# Fear of Losing One's Self

Tara Stover

*Indiana University - Purdue University Fort Wayne*

Follow this and additional works at: [http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu\\_symp2012](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2012)



Part of the [Business Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Tara Stover (2012). *Fear of Losing One's Self*.  
[http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu\\_symp2012/7](http://opus.ipfw.edu/stu_symp2012/7)

This Presentation is brought to you for free and open access by the IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium at Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2012 IPFW Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium by an authorized administrator of Opus: Research & Creativity at IPFW. For more information, please contact [admin@lib.ipfw.edu](mailto:admin@lib.ipfw.edu).

## **Fear of Losing One's Self**

Tara Stover

Dr. Nodir Adilov

Economics

Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne

The theft of one's identity can leave a path of destruction that is not only devastating to an individual's sense of privacy, but also to one's financial security. Many feel violated just as they would if their home had been burglarized after the discovery that some one has stolen their identity in order to commit illegal acts of theft. Identity theft can take on many different forms, but is generally classified in two categories: *existing account fraud* and *new account fraud*. Identity theft crimes are increasing from year to year even with public warnings. There are companies that offer the public guaranteed identity protection. Are these companies really selling protection or just false promises? As technology advances, is the private information of people's lives ever really unattainable to those seeking the identity of others? In the United States, people use one number from birth to death that can identify them in any governmental database. A person's social security number allows the government to keep track of certain data for criminal records, tax records, and even driving records. This is also the one item another person needs to take over some one else's life. This paper will examine who the victims of identity theft normally are and why they are targeted, prevention methods: if the benefits outweigh the cost, and cost of victims and society.